

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNITED WAY RECRUITING VITA VOLUNTEERS AS PART OF iPARTICIPATE INITIATIVE

TUCSON, AZ (October 20, 2009) — You might notice a common theme running throughout your favorite prime time shows this week. The Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF) has mobilized the entertainment community around an initiative designed to inspire a new era of service and volunteerism. This multi-year campaign, called “iParticipate,” hopes to make service a part of who we are as Americans and show what we can achieve when we all pull together. From October 19-25, ABC, CBS, FOX, and NBC will spotlight the importance of volunteering and the power of community service during their prime time lineups.

In response to this national campaign, United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona is recruiting volunteers to help hard-working families in our community with income tax preparation. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free tax help to low- to moderate-income (generally, \$48,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Through the VITA program, thousands of volunteers across the country have learned how to prepare basic tax returns and made a personal connection with their community.

Volunteers will participate in a free process-based training consisting of four (4) classes with a flexible training schedule and online help. You do not have to be proficient in tax preparation to be a VITA volunteer; all you need is a positive attitude and willing to learn about taxes. After completing the training, VITA volunteers are protected by the IRS in case of any mistakes. In addition, there is a quality assurance procedure to double-check all of your hard work.

There are several different VITA positions available:

Greeter/Screenener: This volunteer greets taxpayers upon arrival; helps clients determine if they qualify for the service, ensures that clients have all necessary tax documents and answer questions.

Tax Preparer: The foundation of the VITA program; this volunteer works with clients one-on-one and prepares taxes with the help of tax preparation software.

Quality Reviewer: This volunteer works as a second pair of eyes for the tax preparer, reviewing tax forms and double-checking the work.

Site Coordinator: This volunteer supervises all aspects of a VITA site, managing the site’s operations during the filing season.



Volunteer training will begin in December and will continue throughout January 2010. VITA sites will be operational by late January and will be open through April 15.

Flexible training schedules are available and training sites are located throughout Tucson and Pima County. For more information, contact United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona at 520.903.9000 or email vitavolunteers@unitedwaytucson.org.

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About United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

*United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona is working to advance the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three key building blocks of **Education, Income and Health**. United Way is dedicated to creating long lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes of the most significant issues. Our focus areas include: helping children and youth achieve their potential, promoting financial stability and independence, and improving people's health. To **LIVE UNITED** means being a part of the change. **Give. Advocate. Volunteer. LIVE UNITED**. For more information about United Way, please visit unitedwaytucson.org.*

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

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